

1.A.8.N.b.. PINUS THUNBERGII FOREST ALLIANCE

Japanese Black Pine Forest Alliance

Physiognomic Class	Forest (I)
Physiognomic Subclass	Evergreen Forest (I.A.)
Physiognomic Group	Temperate or sub-polar needle-leaved evergreen forest (I.A.8.)
Physiognomic Subgroup	Natural/Semi-natural temperate or sub-polar needle-leaved evergreen forest (I.A.8.N.)
Formation	Rounded-crowned temperate or sub-polar evergreen forest (I.A.8.N.b.)

Alliance PINUS THUNBERGII FOREST ALLIANCE (I.A.8.N.b.300.)

Pinus thunbergii Forest

Japanese Black Pine Forest

Japanese Black Pine Forest

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 3

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: N/A

RANGE:

Fire Island National Seashore

This association occurs on the backdunes of Fire Island National Seashore. *Pinus thunbergii* is often planted for dune stabilization, and has naturalized at Ridge Point and Whalehouse point (Dowhan and Rozsa 1989).

Globally

This community is provisionally described from the Fire Island National Seashore. It is also known from the Cape Cod National Seashore and from Block Island, RI. *Pinus thunbergii* is also known to be a component of *Pinus rigida* communities at the Cape Henlopen State Park in Delaware.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

Fire Island National Seashore

At Fire Island, this association occurs sporadically on backdunes in association with the *Pinus rigida* / *Hudsonia tomentosa* Woodland.

Globally

This forest occurs on well-drained to xeric sandy soils, usually on sand dunes or near-coastal glacial tills.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

Fire Island National Seashore

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Pinus thunbergii</i> , <i>Pinus rigida</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Pinus thunbergii</i>
Shrub	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>
Vines	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Fire Island National Seashore

Pinus thunbergii

Globally

Pinus thunbergii

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Fire Island National Seashore

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

Fire Island National Seashore

Stands are of variable canopy height and closure, and dominated by *Pinus thunbergii*. A frequent canopy associate is *Pinus rigida*. The shrub layer is not well developed, and the herbaceous layer is of variable composition, sometimes containing *Panicum virgatum* and other herbaceous associates.

Globally

Structure and composition of this association are variable. *Pinus thunbergii* is the canopy dominant, with *Pinus rigida* a common associate. The shrub layer is poorly developed but may include *Viburnum dentatum*. A common vine is *Lonicera japonica*. Herbaceous associates are variable and site-dependent.

COMMENTS

Fire Island National Seashore

Black pine has naturalized on Fire Island and may be an occasional associate of the *Pinus rigida* b/
Hudsonia tomentosa Woodland as well..

Globally

This association is likely the result of naturalized black pine. It is not considered to be a natural community and is ranked GD.

States/Provinces:

MA, RI, DE?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK

GD

DATABASE CODE

CEGL006012

MAP UNITS

REFERENCES

Dowhan and Rozsa 1989

The Nature Conservancy 1995b.